

010798:01

**California Managed Health Care Improvement Task Force Adopts Executive  
Summary and Accepts Final Report**  
*Over 100 recommendations collected in report accepted on  
January 5, 1998*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, January 7, 1998

**CONTACT:** Stephanie Kauss

916/322-7067

Alice M. Singh

916/324-1711

**SACRAMENTO--** The California Managed Health Care Improvement Task Force adopted its Executive Summary, with minor amendments, and transmittal statement for inclusion in its report prepared pursuant to AB 2343 [Chapter 815, Statutes of 1996] at its final meeting on Monday, January 5, 1998. Along with these documents, all previously adopted Findings and Recommendations will be included in the report to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature in January.

The Task Force, which has been convened by Governor Pete Wilson to review, report and make recommendations on California's managed health care system and to streamline and improve the state government's role in the oversight, regulation and preservation of California's managed care system, previously adopted 15 sets of Findings and Recommendations, with over 100 individual recommendations. In response to the Task Force's completed work, Chairman Dr. Alain Enthoven said, "These recommendations go too far for some, not far enough for others....However, I believe that taken together, they represent a very significant and valuable reform package." [for a synopsis of the Task Force's adopted recommendations, please refer to the attachment entitled, "Highlights of Recommendations"]

"It's not enough that California has been a leader in managed care," Wilson said in Sacramento at the opening meeting of the Task Force on April 22, 1997. "Here's my charge to the Task Force: to bring a comprehensive, global perspective to the vexing issues facing us as we work as a community to bring excellent health care to our citizens."

-more-

Governor Wilson asked the Task Force "...to comprehensively review the appropriate role for government in guaranteeing the highest standards in quality of care, without sacrificing its affordability, so that we can make it widely accessible," Wilson said. "It simply means the public sector must set up a framework of laws, then step back and let the markets do what they do best in every other industry: drive continuous quality improvement and control costs. Our goal is what's best, what's fair for all Californians: a quality managed care in which all consumers and patients have the utmost confidence."

To assist the Task Force in formulating its findings and policy recommendations, the 30 member group convened a series of statewide public meetings and hearings from April 1997 through January 1998. Specifically, the public was invited to actively participate in 12 business meetings, five study sessions and six public hearings designed to grant managed care enrollees, the regulated community and interested parties an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding this vast and complex issue.

"The Task Force devoted a substantial amount of time to public testimony and benefited greatly from the diverse views presented to it," said Task Force Chairman Enthoven. "...we heard compelling testimony about how the changing health care system is affecting those who receive and deliver care, both positively and negatively."

In addition, the Task Force commissioned a public survey to further obtain public perceptions and experiences in managed health care. The survey received substantial financial assistance from The California HealthCare Foundation, The Institute for Health Care Advancement, and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The survey results revealed the types of problems consumers are facing and helped to guide Task Force recommendations and will be included in the report under a chapter entitled, "Public Perceptions and Experiences on Managed Care". A Survey Brief was also prepared based on the public survey results by the Task Force and the California Center for Health Improvement. The Brief is available through the Task Force's Sacramento Office.

The California Managed Care Improvement Task Force was created by AB 2343 by Assemblyman Bernie Richter (R-Chico), which passed almost unanimously through both houses of the Legislature and was signed by the Governor last year. The legislation calls for thirty members drawn equally from five categories: health plans; health providers; health plan enrollees; employers who purchase health benefits for employees; and consumer groups. AB 2343 calls for the Task Force to report on the state of the managed care industry and its effects on several key segments of the health care system by January 1998.

For more information regarding the Task Force, including copies of the adopted Findings and Recommendations and the proposed Executive Summary (the adopted Executive Summary will be available by January 19), please access our Web site at [www.chipp.cahwnet.gov/mctf/front.htm](http://www.chipp.cahwnet.gov/mctf/front.htm) or contact the Task Force office at (916) 324-1711.